

"Amateur Radio: Combining communication experience with modern digital techniques."

*PEARS HF Contest 5 December*  
*ARRL 160 Metre Contest 4 and 5 December*  
*ARRL 10 Metre Contest 11 and 12 December*



## Move and Pass

Ask a station to QSY to another band temporarily to log a new multiplier there. In 2003, Jim, AD1C, wrote the programme PASS, <http://software.ad1c.us/pass/>, to find passes in contest log. It takes a Cabrillo log file and finds two or more QSOs with the same station (on different bands) within a given window of time (default is 5 minutes). This enables you to see how many passes you made during a contest. The programme is command-line based and will (should) run either in DOS or in a CMD window under the various flavours of Windows except for 64-bit versions.

## Southern Africa Adopts DVB-T2 Digital TV Standard

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has adopted the MPEG-4 DVB-T2 standard and has a target date for switchover of 31 December 2013.

On 24 November, at a meeting in Lusaka, Zambia, representatives of the 15 nation SADC agreed on the standard and re-affirmed the switchover date.

In 2013, it will give the 13 member countries a TV system that is in advance of the United Kingdom, which will still be using the old MPEG-2 DVB-T standard developed in the last century. This obsolete system dramatically reduces viewer choice as it has just half the channels of the modern MPEG-4 DVB-T2 standard.

DVB-T2 is now starting to be used in the UK for HDTV channels and hopefully one day in the future will be used for all channels but no dates have been announced for a second UK digital switchover.

Outcome of the SADC special session on Digital TV standards  
<http://www.sadc.int/attachment/download/file/477>

SADC - Digital TV Migration  
<http://www.sadc.int/index/browse/page/817>

## The Pears HF QSO Party

The annual PEARS HF QSO Party will be run on Sunday 5 December from 12:00 UTC to 16:00 UTC. It is a SSB only contest with activity on 3 603 - 3 650 and 3 700 - 3 800 kHz and 7 060 - 7 100 and 7 135 - 7 200 kHz. There are four entrance categories - Novice - Stations in South Africa with ZU prefixes; Restricted - Stations in South Africa with ZR prefixes; Unlimited - Stations in South Africa with ZS prefixes and DX - stations outside of South Africa. There are no limitations on the power of stations, or the number of operators, or the location of station equipment except that all operators shall operate within the limits of their licenses at all times.

The exchange is call signs, signal report and the operator's names. Logs must be sent to PEARS QSO Party, PO Box 10402, Linton Grange, Port Elizabeth 6015, South

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Africa or via email to [contest@pears.ham-radio-op.net](mailto:contest@pears.ham-radio-op.net). The closing date for submission of logs is 31 December. The complete rules can be found on page 38 of the 2010 SARL Contest Manual.

## Soar High in the ARRL 10 Metre Contest

The highest of the HF bands will be the central operating focus of many amateurs in the ARRL 10 Metre Contest, 11 and 12 December. During the event, many propagation modes will be available: Sporadic-E will help you work stateside stations, a touch of meteor scatter in the morning will give you split-second chances to work stations - you had better be quick, though! - and DX stations could find their way into the log, thanks to some recent signs of life from the F-layer. "Ten metres was open from the United States to Africa, Europe and South America during the CQ World Wide DX CW contest on the weekend of 27 November," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "Let's see if those conditions remain for the second weekend in December."

Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/soar-high-in-the-arrl-10-meter-contest>.

## The Spratly Islands DXpedition Gets Wings

The 37 operators from 15 countries who make up the DXODX DXpedition Team that will go to the Spratly Islands is finalising preparations for the almost month-long DXpedition that begins 6 January 2011. Instead of going by boat, the team will instead fly to Thitu Island where they will set up their operation. Thitu is the second largest island in the Spratly Islands. The Spratlys are a group of more than 750 reefs, islets, atolls, cays and islands in the South China Sea between Vietnam, the Philippines, China, Malaysia and Brunei. They comprise less than 4 square kilometres of land area, spread out over more than 425,000 square kilometres of sea.

Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/the-spratly-islands-dxpedition-gets-wings>.

## African DX

Zimbabwe, Z2. Mirek, VK6DXI (aka SP5IXI, 9M8DX, 9V1XE, etc.) is going to visit Zimbabwe again and he will be active as Z21DXI. He is arriving in Bulawayo on 6 December and leaving on 17 December 2010. Note that this is a business trip, so the time for operation on the bands

## December

1 World Aids Day; Closing date  
SARL Club logs  
2 Hanukkah  
4/5 ARRL 160 metre contest  
5 PEARS HF contest  
6 Closing date SARL Field Day  
logs  
7 Muharram  
10 Schools close; Int. Human  
Rights Day - Namibia  
11/12 ARRL 10 metre contest  
16 Day of Reconciliation  
21 Summer Solstice; closing date  
CQ WW DX CW logs  
25 Christmas Day  
26 Family Day  
27 Public Holiday  
31 Closing CQ DX Marathon;  
Closing date PEARS HF logs

## January 2011

1 New Years Day, Start of the  
2011 CQ DX Marathon  
1/2 ARRL RTTY Roundup  
8/9 January Hunting Lions in the  
Air Contest; ARRL RTTY Roundup  
9 DARC 10-Metre Contest  
12 Inland Schools open  
19 Coastal Schools open  
20 Closing date for applications  
for May 2011 RAE bursaries  
21 to 23 Port Elizabeth Amateur  
Radio Society National VHF/UHF  
Contest  
22 Summer QRP Sprint  
22/23 BARTG RTTY Sprint  
26 SARL 80 m Club Contest, SSB  
29 PIC Course, Gauteng  
28 to 30 CQ 160-Metre CW Contest;  
UBA DX SSB Contest  
30 Closing date for motions for  
the 2011 SARL AGM; Closing  
date for phase 1 of the construction  
competition





will be very limited. QSLs for Z21DXI via SP5UAF, bureau, direct or eMail request.

Democratic Republic of the Congo, 9Q. Operators ON4HIL, ON4ATW, ON6CC, ON4IA, ON4CIT and PA3EWP are active as 9Q50ON until 13 December in commemoration of the 50 years of independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. The call sign celebrates the 50 years independence of the Democratic Republic Congo. The plan is to have at least two or three stations on the air 24/7 on all bands. QSL to ON4BR either via the bureau or direct. Further information and updates on their website at: [www.9q50on.be/](http://www.9q50on.be/)

Kenya, 5Z. Look for Sig, NV7E, to be active from Nairobi, Kenya (CQ Zone 37), as 5Z4EE during the ARRL DX CW Contest (19 - 20 February) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. QSL direct to NV7E.

Senegal, 6W. David, WJ2O will be active as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry in the ARRL DX CW Contest (19 - 20 February) from Samone, Senegal. QSL direct to his home call.

## African Islands on the Air

Tristan Da Cunha and Gough Islands, ZD9. Dieter, DJ2EH is active as ZD9T from Tristan da Cunha, IOTA AF-029, until 8 December. Activity is on all HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

Mauritius, 3B8. Jacques, F1BCS is active as 3B8/home call until 17 December. Activity is on 20, 17 and 15 metres using SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL to home call.

## Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 29 November to 6 December 2010.

QRP Fox Hunt  
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 1 December  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 80 m Only  
Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)  
Max power: 5 watts  
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
Multipliers: (none)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 2 December 2010  
E-mail logs to: (see rules)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
[http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm)

ARCI Topband Sprint  
00:00 - 06:00 UTC 2 December  
Mode: CW, SSB  
Bands: 160 m Only  
Classes: CW Only; SSB Only; Mixed  
Max operating hours: 6 hours  
Exchange: ARCI: RST, state, province or country and ARCI No; non-ARCI: RST, state, province or country and power out  
Work stations: Once regardless of mode  
QSO Points: ARCI Member: 5 points; Non-Member Different Continent: 4 points; Non-Member Same Continent: 2 points  
Multipliers: States, once regardless of mode; VE Provinces, once regardless of mode; Countries, once regardless of mode





CW Power Mult: 1 x >5 W, 7 x 1 - 5 W, 10 x 250 mW - 1 W, 15 x 55 - 250 mW, 20 x <55 mW

SSB Power Mult: 1 x >10 W, 7 x 2 - 10 W, 10 x 500 mW - 2 W, 15 x 100 - 500 mW, 20 x <55 mW

Mixed Power Mult: smaller of CW or SSB power multiplier

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (state mults and province mults and country mults) x power mult

Submit logs by: 2 January 2011

E-mail logs to: contest[at]qrparci[dot]org

Mail logs to: ARCI Top Band Sprint, c/o Jeff Hetherington, VA3JFF, 139 Elizabeth St. W., Welland, Ontario L3C 4M3, Canada

Find rules at:

<http://www.qrparci.org/content/view/5267/118/>

#### QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 3 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - Fox or Hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 4 December 2010

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

[http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm)

#### NCCC Sprint

03:30 - 04:00 UTC 3 December

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 5 December 2010

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

#### ARRL 160-Meter Contest

22:00 UTC 3 December to 16:00 UTC 5 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single

Max operating hours: 42 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: W/VE: RST and ARRL/RAC Section; DX: RST

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with ARRL/RAC Section; W/VE Station: 5 points per DX QSO

Multipliers: Each ARRL/RAC Sections; Each DXCC Country (W/VE only)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (total section mults and total country mults)

Submit logs by: 16:00 UTC 4 January 2011

E-mail logs to: 160meter[at]arrl[dot]org

Mail logs to: 160 Meter Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

#### TARA RTTY Melee

00:00 - 24:00 UTC 4 December

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op - Low or High; Multi-Op - Low or High; SWL

Max operating hours: 16 hours, off time in no more than 2 blocks

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts

Exchange: W/VE: RST and state or province;

DX: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each state once only; Each VE province/territory once only; Each DXCC country once only







Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (total state mults and total province mults and total country mults)

Submit logs by: 1 January 2011

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

[http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara\\_melee\\_score.html](http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_score.html)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

[http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara\\_melee\\_rules.html](http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html)

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint

06:00 - 06:29 UTC and 06:30 - 06:59 UTC  
and 07:00 - 07:29 UTC and 07:30 UTC -  
08:00 UTC 4 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 and 20 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, serial no and suffix of previous QSO ("QRP" for 1<sup>st</sup> QSO)

Work stations: Once per band per period

QSO Points: 1 point per km

Multipliers: 1 point per new station worked on each band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total multiplier points

Submit logs by: 11 December 2010

E-mail logs to: ru-qrp-club[at]mail[dot]ru

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://qrp.ru/modules/sections/index.php?op=viewarticle&artid=7&page=1>

TOPS Activity Contest

16:00 UTC 4 December to 15:59 UTC 5 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op Multi-Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single

Max power: High: >100 watts; Low: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: TOPS/PRO-CW Members: RST, serial no and member abbreviation; non-Members: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: QSO with own country: 1 point; QSO with own continent or other continents: 2 points; QSO with TOPS/PRO-CW member: 2 bonus points; QSO between TOPS/PRO-CW members: 6 bonus points

Multipliers: Each prefix once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 December 2010

E-mail logs to: yo2rr[at]clicknet[dot]ro

Mail logs to: Ioan Branga, YO2RR, Str. Imperialul Traian nr 2, RO-305500 Lugoj, Romania

Find rules at:

<http://www.procwclub.yo6ex.ro/TOP%20OF%20OPERATORS%20ACTIVITY%20CONTEST.pdf>

EPC Ukraine DX Contest

20:00 UTC 4 December to 19:59 UTC 5 December

Mode: BPSK63

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - 12 hour or 24 hour; Single Op Low Band; Single Op High Band; Multi-Single

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: Ukraine: RSQ and Ukr Admin Region; non-Ukraine: RSQ and QSO No

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with same continent, different country; 5 points per QSO with different continent; non-Ukraine: 10 points per QSO with Ukrainian station

Multipliers: Each DXCC country once per band; Each Ukrainian administrative region once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 19 December 2010

E-mail logs to:

contest[at]ut7fp[dot]kiev[dot]ua

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://ut7fp.kiev.ua/2010epc-ukr-dx/epc-ukraine-dx-contest-rules.pdf>

AWA Bruce Kelley Memorial CW Contest





23:00 UTC 4 December to 23:00 UTC 5 December and 23:00 UTC 11 December to 23:00 UTC 12 December  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 80 and 40 m  
Classes: (none)  
Exchange: RST, Eqpt Year and Input Power (see rules for format)  
QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
Submit logs by: 9 January 2011  
E-mail logs to: (no info)  
Mail logs to: (no info)  
Find rules at:  
<http://www.antiquewireless.org/hamevents2010.htm>

## Next Week's Contests

AWA Bruce Kelley Memorial CW Contest, 23:00 UTC 4 December to 23:00 UTC 5 December and 23:00 UTC 11 December to 23:00 UTC 12 December  
ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 7 December  
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 8 December  
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 11:00 - 12:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 8 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 9 December  
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 10 December  
NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 10 December  
ARRL 10-Meter Contest, 00:00 UTC 11 December to 24:00 UTC 12 December  
Feld Hell Sprint, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 11 December  
MDXA PSK DeathMatch, 00:00 UTC 11 December to 24:00 UTC 12 December  
NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Winter Rally, 00:00 UTC 11 December to 02:00 UTC 16 December  
International Naval Contest, 16:00 UTC 11 December to 15:59 UTC 12 December  
SKCC Weekend Sprint, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 12 December  
CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run, 21:00 - 22:59 UTC 12 December

## History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW. The week starting Monday 29 November 2010.

1586 Sir Thomas Herriot introduces potatoes to England, from Colombia  
1621 Galileo perfects the telescope  
1791 Britain's Observer, the oldest Sunday newspaper in the world, is published for the first time  
1852 Telegraph company opens throughout the Netherlands  
1877 Thomas Edison demonstrates the hand-cranked phonograph  
1901 KC Gillette patents the disposable blade double-edged safety razor  
1902 Marconi transmits from Cape Breton Island to Cornwall, the message was recorded on tape  
1924 First photo facsimile transmitted across Atlantic by radio

*Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newslines, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.*

*Newsletter editors are most welcome to use material from HF Happenings, just remember to acknowledge the source (which could be any one of the names mentioned above). HF Happenings can be provided in MS Word format.*

